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cont.

(c) displaying the focus mark on the position to which the operator relocates the focus position; and

(d) focusing the camera corresponding to the relocated focus position.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of storing image data corresponding to the subject, prior to determining the position where the operator relocates the focus position.

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18. (Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of storing image data corresponding to the subject, prior to determining the position where the operator relocates the focus position.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated May 21, 2002, claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled and claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18 have been amended. Claims 1 and 4-19 are now active in this application. Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding rejections and they be withdrawn.

Claim Objection

In the Office Action, claims 13 and 14 have been objected to for informalities. In this response, claims 13 and 14 have been amended to replace "third image storage unit" with -- second image storage unit-- as suggested by the Examiner.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) for being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 5,808,678 issued to Sakaegi ("Sakaegi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites "[a]n apparatus for controlling a focus position, comprising: a display screen for displaying an image corresponding to a subject and a mark representing the focus position; a touch screen for moving said mark on said display screen; and focus control means for controlling to focus on a position of the subject corresponding to said mark". Thus, according to the present invention, there is one mark displayed on a display screen and the same mark is moved by the touch screen.

In this regard, according to Sakaegi, as shown in Figs. 2A to 2C, when "the user wished to move the focus point and an exposure point to the dash-line circle portion 202, the user *pans the camera* as shown in Fig. 2B, and presses the area designation SW21" (column 4, lines 10-13). Then, the "output signal processor receives the cursor signal into the video signal, then display a cursor 203 on the electronic view finder 19. As a result, the user can see a cursor mark "+" *at the center of the finder image* of the electric view finder 19" (column 4, lines 17-21).

What is disclosed in Sakaegi is *panning a camera* such that the center 201 of the electronic view finder 19 matches the dash-lined circle portion 202, and displaying the cursor mark "+" 203 at the center of the finder image of the electric view finder 19. As the result, as shown in Figs. 2A to 2C, the mark 203 *always stays* at the center of the electronic view finder 19.

Sakaegi does not teach or suggest moving a mark representing the focus position on the display unit, as recited in claim 1. This is further evidenced by the fact that the Office Action is

silent how the cursor mark “+” 203 is moved in Sakaegi. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Sakaegi.

Independent claims 5 and 15 also recite “a touch screen for moving said mark on said display means” and “determining a position on the display screen to which the operator relocates the focus position *based on the operator’s manipulation of a touch screen*”. As previously mentioned, Sakaegi fails to teach or suggest moving the mark on the display means, and thus claims 5 and 15 would be also patentable over Sakegi. Claims 4, 6-14 and 16-19 are dependent from independent claims 1, 5, 15, respectively, and, therefore, these dependent claims would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that all the rejections and objections over claims 1 and 4-19 be withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

Attached hereafter is an Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement including Japanese Patent Publication No. 1992-2281 which has been recently recited during the examination of the Korean counterpart application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the reference in examining the patentability of the present application and make the reference of record.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claim 1 and 4-19 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

APPENDIX

The “marked-up” version of the amended claims is as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for controlling a focus position, comprising:
a display [means] screen for displaying an image corresponding to a subject and a mark representing the focus position;
[switch means] a touch screen for moving [said] the mark on said display [means] screen;
and
focus control means for controlling to focus on a position of the subject corresponding to said mark.
4. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said focus control means further calculates the focus position by processing image data corresponding to [said] the mark moved by said [switch means] touch screen in order to focus the position of subject corresponding to [said] the mark.
5. (Amended) A digital still camera, comprising:
display means for showing an image corresponding to a subject and a mark representing the focus position;
image store means for storing image data corresponding to [said] the image;
[switch means] a touch screen for moving [said] the mark on said display means; and
focus control means for controlling the focus on a position of the subject corresponding to [said] the mark.

7. (Amended) The digital still camera of claim 5, wherein said display means comprises a display screen that shows [said] the image and [said] the mark[, and wherein said switch means comprises a touch screen that moves said mark, positioned upon said display screen].

8. (Amended) The digital still camera of claim 5, wherein said touch screen [switch means comprises a switch unit that is used for moving said mark and] is established on [the] a camera body.

11. (Amended) The digital still camera of claim 5, wherein said focus control means further calculates the focus position by processing image data corresponding to [said] the mark moved by said [switch means] touch screen in order to focus the position of [a photographic] the subject corresponding to [said] the mark according to the focus position calculation.

13. (Amended) The digital still camera of claim 11, further comprising a [third] second image storage unit for storing compressed data.

14. (Amended) The digital still camera of claim 13, wherein said focus control means compresses image data stored in said first image storage unit and restores compressed image data stored in said [third] second image storage unit.

15. (Amended) A method for a digital still camera operator to control a focus position with the camera, comprising the steps of:

- (e) displaying a subject and a focus [position] mark on a display screen;
- (f) determining [whether] a position on the display screen to which the operator relocates the focus position based on the operator's manipulation of a touch screen;
- (g) displaying [a] the focus [position when] mark on the position to which the operator relocates the focus position; and
- (h) focusing the camera corresponding to the relocated focus position.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of[:] storing image data corresponding to [a photographic] the subject, prior to determining [whether] the position where the operator relocates the focus position.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of[:] storing image data corresponding to [a photographic] the subject, prior to determining [whether] the position where the operator relocates the focus position.